

August, 1955 - #21

AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION  
REPORT OF THE  
STANDING COMMITTEE ON AMERICAN CITIZENSHIP  
RECOMMENDATION

The committee recommends the adoption of the following  
resolution:

Be It Resolved, That the American Bar Association  
approve the adoption in principle of a Joint Resolu-  
tion introduced by Congressman Daniel J. Flood  
of Pennsylvania, which reads as follows:

H. J. RES. 193

To provide for a commission to make available information  
as to the basic differences between the theories and  
practices of the American way of life and the theories  
and practices of atheistic communism.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the  
United States of America in Congress assembled,

Establishment of the Commission

Section 1. (a) There is hereby established a commission to  
be known as the Commission To Make Available Information as  
to the Basic Differences Between the Theories and Practices of  
the American Way of Life and the Theories and Practices of  
Atheistic Communism (in this joint resolution referred to as the  
Commission).

(b) The Commission shall be composed of eleven members as follows:

(1) Two members from the Senate of the United States, appointed by the President of the Senate;

(2) Two members from the House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

(3) Three members appointed by the President from among individuals each of whom is a member of the Standing Committee on American Citizenship of the American Bar Association, and who have been nominated by the Board of Governors of the American Bar Association;

(4) Three members appointed by the President from among individuals each of whom is a member of the Association of American Colleges or the American Council of Education, and who have been nominated by the respective governing boards of those organizations; and

(5) One member appointed by the President from private life, to be Chairman of the Commission.

(c) Any vacancy in the Commission shall not affect its powers, but shall be filled in the same manner in which the original appointment was made.

Duties of the Commission

Sec. 2. The Commission--

(1) shall make a study of the testimony relating to the theories and practices of atheistic communism which, since the end of World War II, has been taken under oath by the Internal Security Sub-committee of the Senate Judiciary Committee, the House Committee on Un-American Activities, the House Select Committee to conduct an Investigation of the Facts, Evidence, and Circumstances of the Katyn Forest Massacre, the House Select Committee to Investigate Communist Aggression and the Forced Incorporation of the Baltic States into the U.S.S.R., and by any other standing committee of the Senate or House of Representatives, and by any agency in the Executive Branch of the United States Government; and on the basis of its study, shall prepare material for a book, incorporating only testimony taken under oath by the committees and agencies referred to above, selections so as to give the fullest possible information as to the theories and practices of atheistic communism; and

(2) shall prepare suggested curricula of studies, suitable for use in the teaching of courses in schools, colleges, and universities, which will make clear the basic differences between the theories and practices of the American way of life and the

theories and practices of atheistic communism, and for this purpose it shall be the duty of the Commission to review all pertinent data available to it.

#### Quorum

Sec. 3. Six members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum.

#### Compensation of Members of the Commission

Sec. 4. (a) Members of Congress who are members of the Commission shall serve without compensation in addition to that received for their services as Members of Congress; but they shall be reimbursed for travel, subsistence, and other necessary expenses incurred by them in the performance of the duties vested in the Commission.

(b) The members from private life shall each receive \$50 per diem when engaged in the actual performance of duties vested in the Commission, plus reimbursement for travel, subsistence and other necessary expenses incurred by them in the performance of such duties.

#### Staff of the Commission

Sec. 5. The Commission shall have power to appoint and fix the compensation of such personnel as it deems advisable,

without regard to the provisions of the civil-service laws and the Classification Act of 1949, as amended.

#### Expenses of the Commission

Sec. 6. There is hereby authorized to be appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, so much as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this joint resolution.

#### Availability of Records and Data

Sec. 7. To the extent necessary in order to enable the Commission to carry out the purposes of this joint resolution, the Commission shall be permitted to have access to the records and data of committees and agencies referred to in section 2.

#### Applicability of Certain Laws

Sec. 8. Service of an individual as a member of the Commission or employment of an individual by the Commission as an attorney or expert in any business or professional field, on a part-time or full-time basis, with or without compensation, shall not be considered as service or employment bringing such individual within the provisions of sections 281, 283, 284, 434, or 1914 of title 18 of the United States Code, or section 190 of the Revised Statutes, (5 U.S.C. 99).

#### Reports

Sec. 9. Upon completion of its work, but not later than December 31, 1955, the Commission shall submit to the President a report containing the text book and curricula of studies

referred to in section 2. Not later than March 1, 1956, the President shall submit the Commission's report to the Congress, together with such comments and recommendations as he deems advisable.

#### Termination of Commission

Sec. 10. The Commission shall cease to exist on the thirtieth day following the date on which the President submits the Commission's report to the Congress.

#### REPORT

The Standing Committee on American Citizenship submits its annual report to the 1955 Meeting of the American Bar Association.

The above resolution was considered at the meeting of the Committee held in Chicago on February 20, 1955, in connection with the Midyear Meeting of the House of Delegates.

All members of the committee present felt that the resolution was one which should be adopted. One member of the committee, not able to be present at the meeting, wrote that he believed this constituted only material already of record, but the majority of the committee feel that it would be well to assemble the material in question under the auspices of a Presidential Commission, composed of highly qualified private citizens, without political interference or influence by the Federal Government. The task is to be performed by private enterprise.

In this connection a speech by Congressman B. Carroll Reece of Tennessee is of interest (Congressional Record, February 17, 1955). He states that although he believes the subject of Congressman Flood's resolution is a proper one, he thinks it would be better to have the study done by private enterprise and calls attention to a work being prepared by The Institute of Fiscal and Political Education which holds a charter from the

Board of Regents of the University of the State of New York. However, the committee still feels that Congressman Flood's resolution provides a means of accomplishing this task which would be acceptable to all individual Americans and would thereby be of great value in carrying forward the work of American Citizenship.

The committee desires to emphasize the fact that Mr. Flood's resolution also calls for the "preparation of suggested curricula of studies, suitable for use in the teaching of courses in schools, colleges and universities." The committee notes with approval that the Flood resolution provides for three (3) members to serve on the Presidential Commission who are members of the learned educational societies.

Congressman Flood has made available his file on this subject, which has been meticulously reviewed by the chairman, who reports that there have been expressions of universal favor of this resolution from all sections of the United States. There is included in that file a statement written by the director of an important federal agency and his staff directors to Congressman Flood endorsing his resolution and justifying the necessity for such a Presidential Commission as your committee recommends. The director of that agency states: "Our people are dangerously ignorant of facts about both the creed and conspiracy of communism." A further quotation from one of the director's staff members is as follows: "Certainly the point about stimulating American citizens to be better informed is well taken. This is particularly true for those Americans who travel or reside abroad, or those living here who have contact with foreign visitors. It is not enough to be generally aware of the communist threat; one must be clear as to theory, facts, and actions to be taken."

One very significant fact that the committee wishes to emphasize is that Congressman Flood's resolution sets forth a plan or method of accomplishing our proposal.

#### The Theory and Practices of Communism

The committee has not abandoned its resolution regarding the teaching in schools of the theory and practices of communism. That resolution, as amended by the Board of Governors in August 1954 which amendment was accepted by your committee, is as follows:

"Whereas, The American Bar Association believes that enlightened citizenship requires intelligent understanding of world problems, free discussions and courageous thinking,

Be It Resolved, That there be adequate teaching of the principles of the Constitution of the United States and the facts of the theory and practice of our government thereunder in all educational institutions of each state, and

Be It Further Resolved, That students at appropriate levels of education in educational institutions of each state be made acquainted with the theory and practice of Communism in order to demonstrate its inherent fallacies and its threat to the privileges and liberties of free peoples, and

Be It Further Resolved, That the Association stands ready to implement the purposes of this resolution by aiding in the preparation of suitable material and otherwise through its Standing Committee on American Citizenship. "

In view of the fact that this resolution was laid on the table the committee feels that it is a matter for the Association to determine as to whether it shall be taken from the table and acted upon.

The committee further feels, however, that it has done all that it can and that any further action must come from the House of Delegates and not the committee.

#### Publication of the Citizenship Bulletin

The Citizenship Bulletins have been issued semi-annually and are distributed under the auspices of the Standing Committee on American Citizenship of the American Bar Association. They are sent without charge to the following officials of each state bar association and larger local associations, in their official capacity: president, secretary, chairman of Citizenship Committee, chairman of Public Relations Committee. They are also sent to representatives of the Junior Bar Conference in each state and to officials of the American Bar Association.

These bulletins are in such demand that this committee has been compelled to publish larger editions. Many favorable comments have been received from a number of sources. Additional copies can be obtained by writing to the chairman of the committee or to the Washington office of the American Bar Association, 1406 M Street, Northwest, Washington 5, D. C.



Americanism Around the Calendar

The committee again has published this Calendar and has made available to the state and local bar associations a program of Americanism Around the Calendar, making suggestions as to proper items of interest in connection with American Citizenship.

Participation of the Bar in Citizenship Programs

The resolution of the House of Delegates adopted at the 1952 Annual Meeting urging the judges of the various courts in which naturalization proceedings are held to make every effort to increase the dignity of the proceedings has continued to claim the attention of our Committee and we have furnished to bar associations and members of such associations material in this regard.

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Chairman  
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